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FRENCH NATIONAL ASSEMBLY DEBATE
ON INDOCHINA

- I. Assembly forced debate on Indochina policy for 23 October:
 - A. 16 October Vietnamese resolution rejecting "French Union in its present form," immediate cause.
 - B. Opponents of government policy charge France no longer has stake in Indochina. US aid buying French participation.
 - 1. Socialists long opposed war.
 - 2. Ex-Gaullists supported for nationalistic reasons.
 - 3. Both groups critical policy of concession and "US interference."
 - C. Probable government stand:
 - 1. Ask support until results of Navarre campaign assessed.
 - 2. Mollify ex-Gaullists by promise

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to insist on French Union in
negotiations Associated States.

3. May be unable avoid commitment
seek five-power talks.

II. Probable results:

A. Within parliament:

1. Rival candidates may use issue
spike Laniel's presidential hopes.
2. Coalition parties have larger stake
maintaining Laniel government until
December election.
3. A successor to Laniel would be
obliged to follow essentially the
same Indochina policy as Laniel.

B. Within Indochina:

1. Debate not likely seriously affect
current military operations
Indochina.
2. Vietnam fear suggestions France
may negotiate with enemy.

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- a. Such possibility might lead
to soften demands recent
resolution.

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